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## Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Previously presented) An NHR<sub>1</sub>R<sub>2</sub>R<sub>3</sub> salt of omeprazole, wherein:

 $R_1$  is a linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_{12}$ -alkyl group, or a cyclic  $C_3$ - $C_{12}$ -alkyl group, wherein the linear or branched  $C_1$ - $C_{12}$  alkyl group is optionally substituted or interrupted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of a cyclic  $C_3$ - $C_6$ -alkyl group, a cyclic  $C_3$ - $C_6$ -alkylene group, a phenyl group, and a phenylene group, and wherein the cyclic  $C_3$ - $C_6$ -alkyl group, the cyclic  $C_3$ - $C_6$ -alkylene group, the phenyl group, or the phenylene group is optionally further substituted by 0, 1, 2, or 3 methyl groups; and

R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> are hydrogen.

- 2. (Previously presented) The NHR<sub>1</sub>R<sub>2</sub>R<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> salt of omeprazole according to claim 1, wherein R<sub>1</sub> is a linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl group, or a cyclic C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl group, wherein the linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl group is optionally substituted or interrupted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of a cyclic C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>-alkyl group, a cyclic C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>-alkylene group, a phenyl group, or a phenylene group, and wherein the cyclic C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>-alkyl group, the cyclic C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>-alkylene group, the phenyl group, or the phenylene group is optionally further substituted by 0, 1, 2, or 3 methyl groups.
- 3. (Previously presented) The NHR<sub>1</sub>R<sub>2</sub>R<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> salt of omeprazole according to claim 1, wherein R<sub>1</sub> is a linear, branched, or cyclic C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl group, wherein the linear or branched C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl group is optionally substituted or interrupted with a cyclic C<sub>3</sub>-alkyl group or a cyclic C<sub>3</sub>-alkylene group, and wherein the cyclic C<sub>3</sub>-alkyl group or the cyclic C<sub>3</sub>-alkylene group is further substituted by 0, 1, 2, or 3 methyl groups.

- 4. (Previously presented) The NHR<sub>1</sub>R<sub>2</sub>R<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> salt of omeprazole according to claim 1, wherein the salt has a pKa value equal to or greater than about 10.
- 5. (Previously presented) The NHR<sub>1</sub>R<sub>2</sub>R<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> salt of omeprazole according to claim 1, wherein the salt has a pKa value equal to or greater than about 10.5.
- 6. (Canceled)
- 7. (Canceled).
- 8. (Previously presented) The NHR<sub>1</sub>R<sub>2</sub>R<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> salt of omeprazole according to claim 1, wherein the salt is the *tert*-butylammonium salt of omeprazole.
- 9. (Canceled)
- 10. (Previously presented) The NHR<sub>1</sub>R<sub>2</sub>R<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> salt of omeprazole according to claim 1, wherein the salt is crystalline.
- 11. (Previously presented) A process for preparation of an NHR<sub>1</sub>R<sub>2</sub>R<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> salt of omeprazole according to any one of claims 1-5, 8, or 10, which comprises the steps of:
  - a) dissolving omeprazole in an organic solvent;
  - b) adding an NR<sub>1</sub>R<sub>2</sub>R<sub>3</sub> compound and precipitating the desired salt; and
  - c) isolating and drying the obtained salt of omeprazole.
- 12. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 11, wherein the organic solvent is acetonitrile or *tert*-butyl methyl ether.
- 13. (Canceled)
- 14. (Canceled)

- 15. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the NHR<sub>1</sub>R<sub>2</sub>R<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> salt of omeprazole according to any one of claims 1-5, 8, or 10 as active ingredient in association with pharmaceutically acceptable excipients-and optionally one or more additional therapeutic ingredients.
- 16. (Canceled)
- 17. (Currently amended) A method for inhibiting gastric acid [related] secretion comprising administering to a patient suffering from the condition a therapeutically effective amount of the NHR<sub>1</sub>R<sub>2</sub>R<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> salt according to any one of claims 1-5, 8, or 10.
- 18. (Previously presented) An NHR<sub>1</sub>R<sub>2</sub>R<sub>3</sub> salt of csomeprazole, wherein:

R<sub>1</sub> is a linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>-alkyl group, or a cyclic C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>-alkyl group, wherein the linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> alkyl group is optionally substituted or interrupted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of a cyclic C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl group, a cyclic C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylene group, and a phenylene group, and wherein the cyclic C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl group, the cyclic C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkylene group, the phenyl group, or the phenylene group is optionally further substituted by 0, 1, 2, or 3 methyl groups; and

R2 and R3 are hydrogen.

19. (Previously presented) The NHR<sub>1</sub>R<sub>2</sub>R<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> salt of esomeprazole according to claim 18, wherein R<sub>1</sub> is a linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>–C<sub>6</sub> -alkyl group or a cyclic C<sub>3</sub>–C<sub>6</sub> -alkyl group, wherein the linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>–C<sub>6</sub> alkyl group is optionally substituted or interrupted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of a cyclic C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>-alkyl group, a cyclic C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>-alkylene group, a phenyl group, or a phenylene group, and wherein the cyclic C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>-alkyl group, the cyclic C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>-alkylene group, the phenyl group, or the phenylene group is optionally further substituted by 0, 1, 2, or 3 methyl groups.

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- 20. (Previously presented) The NHR<sub>1</sub>R<sub>2</sub>R<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> salt of esomeprazole according to claim 18, wherein R<sub>1</sub> is a linear, branched, or cyclic C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl group, wherein the linear or branched C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl group is optionally substituted or interrupted with a cyclic C<sub>3</sub>-alkyl group or a cyclic C<sub>3</sub>-alkylene group, and wherein the cyclic C<sub>3</sub>-alkyl group or the cyclic C<sub>3</sub>-alkylene group is further substituted by 0, 1, 2, or 3 methyl groups.
- 21. (Previously presented) The  $NHR_1R_2R_3^+$  salt of esomeprazole according to claim 18, wherein the salt has a pKa value equal to or greater than about 10.
- 22. (Previously presented) The  $NHR_1R_2R_3^+$  salt of esomeprazole according to claim 18, wherein the salt has a pKa value equal to or greater than about 10.5.
- 23. (Previously presented) The NHR<sub>1</sub>R<sub>2</sub>R<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> salt of esomeprazole according to claim 18, wherein the salt is the *tert*-butylammonium salt of esomeprazole.
- 24. (Previously presented) The NHR<sub>1</sub>R<sub>2</sub>R<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> salt of esomeprazole according to claim 18, wherein the salt is crystalline.
- 25. (Previously presented) A process for preparation of an NHR<sub>1</sub>R<sub>2</sub>R<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> salt of esomeprazole according to any one of claims 18-24, which comprises the steps of
  - a) dissolving esomeprazole in an organic solvent;
  - b) adding an NR<sub>1</sub>R<sub>2</sub>R<sub>3</sub> compound and precipitating the desired salt; and
  - c) isolating and drying the obtained salt of esomeprazole.
- 26. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 25, wherein the organic solvent is acetonitrile or *tert*-butyl methyl ether.

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- 27. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the NHR<sub>1</sub>R<sub>2</sub>R<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup> salt of esomeprazole according to any one of claims 18-24 as active ingredient in association with pharmaceutically acceptable excipients and optionally one or more additional therapeutic ingredients.
- 28. (Previously presented) A method for inhibiting gastric acid secretion comprising administering to a patient suffering from the condition a therapeutically effective amount of the  $NHR_1R_2R_3^+$  salt according to any one of claims 18-24.
- 29. (Canceled)